



# News Release

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## **King County naturopaths charged in medical marijuana cases**

*Charges of sub-standard care related to marijuana recommendations*

**OLYMPIA** — Two naturopathic physicians face state charges of providing sub-standard care in conducting patient examinations to authorize medical marijuana. The Board of Naturopathy and the state Department of Health have issued charges against King County naturopathic physicians Carolyn Lee Bearss (NATU.NT.60134517) and Dimitrios Jimmy Magiasis (NATU.NT.60199408) in separate legal actions.

The statements of charges say Bearss and Magiasis examined and treated more than 200 patients seeking medical marijuana authorization at the 2011 “Hempfest” event in Seattle. The charges say the examinations were below the standard of care. Allegations include inadequate review of patient medical histories; inadequate documentation of the examinations and diagnoses; and failure to establish an ongoing patient care relationship. The allegations say that in some cases the patients’ conditions did not meet state requirements for a medical marijuana authorization.

Bearss and Magiasis each have 20 days to respond to the statement of charges, which are available online by clicking, “[Look up a health care provider](#)” on the [Department of Health home page](#) (doh.wa.gov) or by calling 360-236-4700. Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report the complaint.

The Board of Naturopathy regulates naturopathic physicians in Washington. The board establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents. The [Department of Health website](#) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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